released 'Travel and Tourism competitiveness monitor' of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), highlighting *inter-alia* that India is not yet among the most competitive tourist destinations in the world; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to upgrade the infrastructure and other tourist facilities etc. to match up to the parameters of the WTTC to make India a 'must see' tourist destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has formulated following schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of tourism infrastructure including tourist facilities to make India an attractive destination:

(i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits

(ii) Products/Infrastructure and Destination Development

(iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

Maintenance of tourist places in HP

1515. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that conditions of tourist places in Himachal Pradesh are deteriorating day by day; and

(b) if so, what schemes are being formulated by Government to maintain the tourist places in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations every year for the tourism projects identified in consultation and interaction with them. The financial assistance is provided for the tourism projects under the schemes of Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development. Monuments coming under the control of Archaeological Survey of India are maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

A project for integrated development of rural tourism at Paragpur in District Kangra has been sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 lakhs during the current financial year. During the year 2002-03, the Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul/Spiti-Leh Tourist Circuit with Central financial assistance of Rs. 714.06 lakhs has been taken up for development.

Plan to make hotel premises easy for disabled

1516. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jaipur hotels have plans to make their premises easy for physically challenged people; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to make it mandatory for all the hotels to open their doors to the disabled otherwise their licenses would not be renewed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) According to the Revised Guidelines for Classification of Hotels and Approval of hotel projects issued by the Department of Tourism, Government of India on 23.04.2003, new hotel projects will be required to adopt environment friendly practices and facilities for physically challenged persons.

As regards the existing classified hotels, they are required to add in a phased manner eco-friendly practices and facilities for physically challenged persons.

It is being ensured at the time of classification/re-classification of hotels that all hotels, including hotels in Jaipur should have the above facilities.

Survey by ASI to assess encroachment of Land

1517. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the Taj corridor controversy, Government have undertaken any survey about the encroachment of land around